

Message Text

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45

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00

PC-15 USIE-00 IO-15 AGR-20 SPM-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-03

PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 L-03 H-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /196 W

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O P 261645Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1560

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

DIA PRIORITY

DOD PRIORITY

USREDCOM MACDIL AFB TAMPA FLA PRIORITY

HQ TAC LANGLEY AFB VIRGINIA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 884

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MAURITANIA AIRLIFT

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 873, 876

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF JUST RETURNED FROM THREE DAYS OBSERVATION
USAF AUTHENTIC ASSISTANCE AIRLIFT MALI. BASED ON HIS
CONVERSATIONS WITH AMEMBASSY BAMAKO AND AIRLIFT COMMANDER,
WE SERIOUSLY QUESTION NOUAKCHOTT CAN PROVIDE LOGISTICAL
BASE NEEDED FOR OPTIMUM USE OF AIRLIFT. REQUEST URGENT
CONSIDERATION OF STAGING AIRLIFT FOR MAURITANIA FROM DAKAR.

2. WE UNDERSTAND BRITISH LAST MONTH RAN SUCCESSFUL C-130
OPERATION FOR MALI FROM DAKAR.

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3. PRINCIPAL DISADVANTAGES OPERATION BASED IN NOUAKCHOTT
ARE A. PRIMITIVE SUPPORT FACILITIES IN CITY AND AT AIRPORT;
B. DIFFICULTY IN RECEIVING SPARE PARTS. (UNDERSTAND SPARES
FOR MALI AIRLIFT ARE AIRFREIGHTED FROM EUROPE VIA DAKAR AND
THAT SHIPPING DELAYS HAVE CAUSED AS MUCH AS ONE WEEK DOWNTIME.
THIS WOULD BE CRIPPLING TO RELIEF EFFORT WITH ONLY ONE C-130
INVOLVED).

4. DISADVANTAGE USING DAKAR WOULD INCLUDE: A) ROUGHLY 15
PERCENT LONGER DISTANCES TO BE FLOWN AND B) POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES
COORDINATING GRAIN MOVEMENT FROM DAKAR PORT TO AIRPORT.
COSTS FOR EXTRA FLIGHT TIME, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE WEIGHED
AGAINST MARKEDLY HIGHER COST OF FUEL IN NOUAKCHOTT VS.
DAKAR AND REDUCED DOWNTIME FOR AIRCRAFT.

5. FURTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO STAGE PLANE FROM DAKAR
PASSING THROUGH NOUAKCHOTT TO PICK UP LOADS AT THIS AIRFIELD.

65. FOR DAKAR. ADVISE AVAILABILITY IN PORT OF STOCKS
DESTINED FOR MAURITANIA OTHER THAN THOSE SCHEDULED ARRIVE
IN PORT OCTOBER 1 (STATE 190910). MURPHY

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